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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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April 9, 1979

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation With  
Rabbi Theodore Friedman of Jerusalem

Subject: Jacobo Timerman of Buenos Aires

Rabbi Friedman is the father-in-law of the American rabbi in Buenos Aires, Rabbi Marshall Meyer. He has just returned from a visit in Argentina during which he was able to see Mr. Timerman in his home. He reports that Mr. Timerman is in strong spirits and determined to undertake his hunger strike on April 16th.

Ambassador Castro has told Rabbis Meyer and Friedman that both Viola and Videla have assured him that, by the end of April, the Timerman "case will be resolved." Ambassador Castro believes, according to Rabbi Friedman, that the hunger strike would make it impossible for Videla and Viola to complete their plan. Rabbi Meyer has said that he will go to see Mr. Timerman and explain the situation again.

Rabbi Friedman was in the country ten days ago. He reports that things are "quiet now, but it is the quiet before the storm." He believes that economic difficulties are so severe for middle and low income people that they will not tolerate existing conditions much longer. He gave as an example the fact that a popsicle for his grandchild cost \$1.25. The "upper classes are doing fantastically well and thriving and this difference in standard of living is not lost on those less fortunate."

Patricia M. Derian

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Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
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cc: HA - Ms. Bova  
ARA/ECA

HA:PD/cc

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